Dr Anne Walker received two degrees from the University (MB ChB 1958 and MD 1965) and spent the majority of her working life as a Consultant Dermatologist at the Chesterfield and Derbyshire Royal Hospital. Dr Walker made provisions in her will to ensure that students currently studying Medicine at the University could be given a financial “helping hand.”

The Medical School’s approach is to make Medicine inclusive for all students regardless of their background. The Sheffield Outreach and Access to Medicine Scheme (SOAMS) makes a career in medicine possible for able students from all backgrounds and is for local year 9–13 students (ages 13–18) who have an interest in medicine or science. The students who complete the course successfully are guaranteed an interview for a place to study medicine at Sheffield.

It seemed very appropriate, with a career dedicated to Medicine, that Dr Walker’s legacy was made available to students on the scheme. So after discussions with the Medical School, it was decided that the legacy would be used to endow a prize for the student who performs best in their first year studies who entered the University through SOAMS.

Professor Nigel Bax, Head of the Academic Unit of Medical Education added, “Dr Walker was a staunch supporter of the University and was a very good teacher and clinician. She had a large influence on the department with her work on the effects of polyvinyl chloride on skin and bones.”

I am also pleased to announce that in 2011 the University will be installing a permanent Benefactors Board in the entrance to Firth Court on Western Bank. This will enable our students, visitors and staff to see just how important legacy gifts have been to the University.
The late Dr David Ryan (MB ChB 1970) was the benefactor behind the legacy that funded the collaborative study space for the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health. This renovation allowed students to have a communal area in the library where they could discuss their work more detail.

The scholarship has been a benefit in so many ways, especially allowing me to buy more resources and books that I need for the course and helping me cover accommodation expenses that I always had been a heavy burden. The scholarship enables me to concentrate on maximising the opportunities available to me, such as being more involved in volunteering for SOAMS to give to other students what the University has given to me. It also means I can concentrate to support myself financially. My parents are grateful to know that I have the support behind me that they cannot provide.

It is highly rewarding to know the knowledge I attain now will help to save the lives of patients in the future.

Scholarships are often pivotal to the decision of whether a bright and talented student comes to university or not. Your gifts act as a door to education and as a source of inspiration to those who have the ability to succeed but just need that extra push in the right direction.

I am so grateful for the scholarship and want to say a huge thank you to the generous individuals who contribute to the Alumni Scholarships. Since receiving the scholarship, I feel an even greater dedication to learning inspired by the thought that there are people behind me who believe in me.

The help you can provide by your donation will allow students to realise their potential and become the professionals of the future.

To read more about the University of Sheffield’s outreach programmes please visit: www.shef.ac.uk/schools/outreach-programmes

Generosity turns old into new

Sue (David’s widow) and Richard (his brother) open the study space

You may remember from Donor News last year that we reported on a legacy from the late Dr David Ryan (MB ChB 1970). The legacy was used to complete the transformation of an old store room into a collaborative study space for the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health. In August 2010, we were pleased to welcome some of David’s family back to the University to officially open the new study room with a small event.

To help move the project forward we were very pleased to combine David’s legacy with a grant from the Alumni Fund, funding from the University Library and the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health and a donation from the University of Sheffield Medical Society 2010 Committee.

Vic Grant, Faculty Librarian for Medicine said, “The new study area is wonderful. Within the first few months of the study space opening it was clear to see that the students were very pleased to have a communal area in the library where they can come together and discuss their work in more detail.”

The late Dr Derek Griess received two degrees from the University of Sheffield’s Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering (BSc 1934, PhD 1938). He was born and raised in Sheffield and always had fond memories of his time as a student on Glossop Road and West Street. Dr Griess was a modest man, although he was very successful, receiving the Mappin Medal on his graduation day. It is a great tribute to Dr Griess’s pragmatism and generosity that he has left £371,391 to his former department to help the students directly. We are very pleased to update you with the news that Dr Griess’s legacy has helped set up the Derek Griess Innovation and Enterprise Awards.

These Enterprise Awards have given the department the chance to enhance its teaching provision in a novel way by establishing a dedicated and fully equipped innovation and skills training laboratory. It primarily supports individual student innovation and enterprise through prototype production and test, supported by academic staff, or in collaboration with industry. There are ten annual awards, each worth £2,000. These competitive vacation bursaries are open to all 2nd and 3rd year students and support them over a ten week summer period. They provide the opportunity to develop practical and research skills, with the benefits of engaging with industry and enhancing their future career prospects.

We are extremely grateful for Dr Griess’s support and his generosity will be recognised and remembered for many years to come in the laboratory that bears his name.
In September the Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Burnett hosted the first of an annual lunch for members of the newly formed Heritage Circle gift club. This gift club has been established to recognise the special commitment of people who choose to support the University through a planned gift in their will.

The day started with a drinks reception in Firth Hall and guests had the opportunity to meet with members of staff and the guest speakers. After the reception over 80 alumni, staff and friends sat down for a hearty choice of Chatsworth farm sausages, a variety of flavours of mash and Bakewell tart for dessert.

After lunch guests were invited into the Tapestry Room, where they were treated to a selection of short talks from our special guests, including Sir Ian Kershaw from the Arts Faculty and Professor Pamela Shaw from the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health. We were delighted to have two eminent academics talking about their current research interests.

Sir Ian is one of the world’s leading experts on Nazi Germany and Adolf Hitler. He spoke briefly about his latest book, ‘Last Stand. How and Why Hitler’s Germany Fought on to the Bitter End’. Professor Shaw is the Head of the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN) and she discussed the new multi-million pound centre for research into Motor Neurone Disease, which was opened by HM The Queen in November 2010.

After the talks, guests were led on a short tour of the new exhibition space (funded with philanthropic donations including a legacy from Miss Margaret Lewis, BSc 1923) in the Western Bank Library. This featured the original illustrations by the artist, poet and playwright Mervyn Peake (1911–1968) from ‘Alice in Wonderland’, that were on loan from the British Library. Finally, farewell refreshments were served and staff from the Development and Alumni Relations Office were on hand to answer any questions guests had.

The event was a great success and we are pleased to announce that the second Heritage Circle lunch will take place on Friday 21st October 2011.

The Julian Payne Endowment Fund

Julian Payne (1962–1983) was an outstanding student in the Department of Music. Tragically, Julian died in an accident at the end of his first year. The Julian Payne Endowment Fund was established thanks to the generosity of his family, friends, staff and students in the Department, to give thanks for his life and in gratitude for the happy year he spent at Sheffield.

The Julian Payne Endowment Fund has a number of aims, one of which is to award an annual prize to enable an instrumentalist to attend a summer school. Julian himself received grants for this purpose and in 2010 the fund offered four tuition scholarships of £3,000 for masters students at the University. One of these scholarships is also reserved for a current Sheffield graduate who wants to continue their studies to a postgraduate level.

We are especially grateful for the support from Julian’s mother, Shirley, and father, Tony, who died in 2010. Through their vision and generosity, this fund continues to support music students, enabling them to fulfil their hopes and dreams.

Dates for your diary in 2011

- **Heritage Circle Lunch**
  Friday 21st October
- **Scholarship Presentation Reception**
  Wednesday 6th April
- **Reunion Luncheon**
  Saturday 25th June for members of the classes 1951 or 1961
- **Dinner for Former Staff and Friends**
  Thursday 7th July
- **Engineering Alumni Dinner**
  Saturday 9th July
- **Annual Alumni Reunion**
  Saturday 10th September for members of the classes 1971, 1981 or 1986
- **Law Alumni Dinner**
  Friday 14th October

To reduce costs not all event invitations are sent by mail. To ensure you receive future invitations, please email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk or call 0114 222 5592.
A point of contact for you

Have you left a gift to the University in your will or is it something you are considering? The process of making a will is a confidential matter and one that can take many months of discussion with your family, friends and solicitor. However, the Development Officer for Legacies, David Meadows regularly helps alumni, staff and friends wanting to leave a gift in their will with suggested wordings, inheritance tax queries and information about where support is most needed. He is on hand to answer your questions and help you make the most of your legacy to the University. If you would like to speak to him in confidence about leaving a gift in your will, please contact, David Meadows, on +44 (0)114 222 1073 or email d.meadows@sheffield.ac.uk

Grab a signed Joe Scarborough print while you can

The University commissioned local artist Joe Scarborough to paint “Our University” in celebration of its centenary in 2005. The commission of the painting was generously paid for by the Sheffield University Association (SUA). 500 signed copies sold out in 2005 helping generate £18,000 for scholarships. Joe was honoured with an honorary doctorate in 2008 in recognition for his contribution to the cultural life of the city. We have now commissioned Joe to paint a sister work to “Our University” entitled “Our Students’ Journey” and we are delighted to be selling 500 limited edition signed prints. All proceeds will again go to support the provision of scholarships for gifted students in need of financial support, and to help the University’s Alumni Foundation which provides grants for student clubs and societies to enrich the life of the University.

To purchase a copy of the 19”x17” print please visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/merchandise telephone +44 (0) 114 222 5592 or email alumni@sheffield.ac.uk

Supporting our athletes to 2012 and beyond

The University of Sheffield launched the Elite Sport Performance Scheme in 2010 and World Champion heptathlete Jessica Ennis (BSc 2007, LittD 2009) presented a host of scholarships to elite student athletes.

The scheme is split into two levels and the celebration event saw Jessica, who is patron of the scheme, congratulate the 17 students awarded Level 1 support and the 11 students chosen for Level 2. This tier sees them receive a £1,000 scholarship that has been made possible by support from alumni and local businesses.

To read more about the scheme, please visit, www.shef.ac.uk/usport/about/elitesportperformancescheme

The newly refurbished University of Sheffield’s Students’ Union was officially opened in October 2010, following a £5million facelift. The award-winning building was filled with students past and present, alumni donors and a host of special guests, as Professor Keith Burnett, Vice-Chancellor of the University, and the President of the Students’ Union Joshua Forstenzer, unveiled a plaque in celebration of the newly refurbished building.

At the beginning of 2010 the Alumni Office ran a telephone campaign to support the refurbishment and over £20,000 was raised. The money has been used to help two important areas: the relocation and refurbishment of the central information resource centre The Source; and the creation of a dedicated performance and exhibition space that can be used by clubs and societies throughout the year.

Professor Keith Burnett said: “The new refurbishment of our award-winning Students’ Union is a demonstration of the University’s commitment to providing our students with the very best facilities, to ensure they have a first-class university experience.”

With a donation to the Alumni Fund, you too could help student projects like this. If you feel in a position to make a donation or if you would like more information about the University’s Alumni Fund, please contact the Annual Giving Manager, Ben Wilson on +44 (0)114 222 5594, email ben.wilson@sheffield.ac.uk or visit www.shef.ac.uk/alumni/support

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